



# CYBER HAZARD

A Cyber Hazard (Attack) is an intentional disruption or manipulation of the information and communication systems used to collect, filter, process, create, and distribute data. A Cyber Attack may seek to impact data or physical infrastructure. DHS defines a Cyber Security Attack where there were: 1. Attempts (either failed or successful) to gain unauthorized access to a system or its data; 2. Unwanted disruption or denial of service; 3. The unauthorized use of a system for the processing or storage of data; and, 4. Changes to system hardware, firmware, or software characteristics without the owner's knowledge, instruction, or consent.



## HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There has never been a successful emergency-level attack on Government Cyber/Communications Infrastructure in Howard County (2009-2019). However, Howard County experiences frequent Cyber Hazard events that result in user impact, loss of access to information systems, and the need to repair or replace hardware or software. There have been more than 3,000 minor damaging Cyber Hazard events in Howard County each year.

## WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

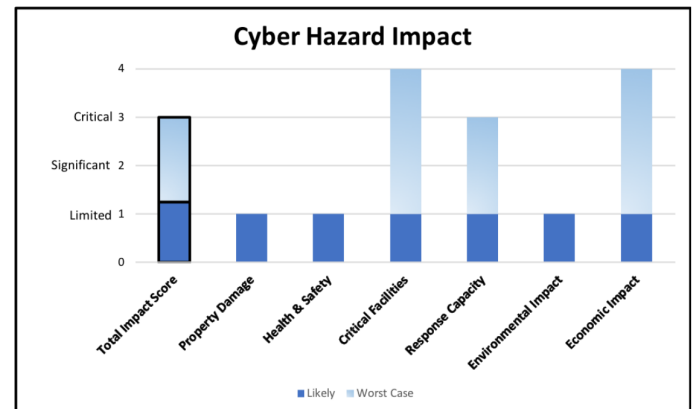
There is an expected 11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Cyber Hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Cyber Hazard scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Critical.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The initial Cyber Attack may only take a few minutes. However, it can take hours, days, or even weeks to identify and control the hazard.
- Cyber Attacks can impact any location from a single computer to data networks spreading across the entire country.
- General phishing attacks, searches for protected data, and system exploits allowing the entry of harmful software may take place thousands of times each day.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)



Cyber Hazard Risk Profile				
LIKELIHOOD	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
CONSEQUENCE	Likelihood	3.5 Likely-Very Likely		50%
	Impact	1.25 Limited-Significant	3 Critical	40%
	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	3 Long	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.6	3.3	

